**John the Baptist**

John the Baptist was the son of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth. John grew up and lived a holy life. A lot of Jewish people in Israel began to come to hear John speak and follow him around. John baptised many people in the River Jordon. That's why people call John "John the Baptist". He called on them to repent of their sins.

The Jews asked:  ‘Who are you?’ He confessed ‘I am not the Messiah.’And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’

He said, ‘I am not.’

‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’

Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan. 

Before Jesus began his preaching, he came to ask John to baptise him. John didn’t feel worthy to baptise him: he said ‘You should be the one baptising me, how can I baptise you?’ But Jesus said it was important for John to baptise him. ‘Let it be so for now’ he said.

So John did baptise Jesus in the river Jordon. When Jesus came out of the water a voice from heaven said: ‘This is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

At the same time, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove and hovered over Jesus

The next day some of John’s followers were with John and he saw Jesus coming close by. John said: Behold there is the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sins of the world. So disciples followed Jesus and spent the whole day with him.

**I wonder** why John called Jesus the Lamb of God?